GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:18
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2000
DEFENCE MINISTER`S VISIT TO JAPAN
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has visited Japan recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the issues taken up there and agreement reached, including the signing of the CTBT?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir. I paid an official visit to Japan during January 11-14, 2000.

(b) Views were exchanged regarding security developments in the region, and discussions held on defence policies and security concerns of both countries. Both sides decided to commence a regular security and defence related dialogue between the defence establishments of India and Japan. Both India and Japan realised that our relationship was far too important and complex to be determined by any single issue. The issue of India signing the CTBT was raised by the Japanese side. I have conveyed that the Indian government is committed to building a national consensus on this issue and is taking steps towards this end. I also conveyed that a positive international environment would be conducive to this process.

My discussions with Japanese leaders resulted in a better appreciation of India`s security concerns. By adding the framework of a new security dimension in our dialogues, the visit helped enlarge Indo-Japanese relationship, giving a more complete character to our bilateral relationship.